1. The most critical issue, as with all higher education and the nation at large, is the response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The state of Hawai‘i was one location that was not hit as early during the pandemic and Hawai‘i was able to respond while learning and watching what other states and countries were doing. During spring break, we made the decision to move all instruction to an online environment while we wait out the pandemic storm. The community colleges created an exemption process for courses to safely return to partial face to face environments. For specific CTE courses that had to be suspended due to the government “stay at home” order, we are now beginning to bring those students back with face covering requirements and appropriate social distancing. The first summer session is fully online and plans are in place to pilot hybrid and hyflex courses in the second summer session, in preparation for fall 2020. The pandemic and halt of tourism in Hawai‘i has dramatically affected the state economy. While we know fiscal year 2021 and 2022 will be the most challenging financial years, we are in the process to holding back spending, suspending hiring and reviewing programatic changes due to the planned funding scenarios.

2. Kapiolani Community College successfully completed their 18 month follow up visit remotely by ACCJC. While we await the commission action, the exit report was very positive.

3. We launched our Next Steps to Your Future program earlier this month to provide public school seniors with immediate support as many of them lost access to career and college counseling when their schools were closed in March due to COVID-19. The program provides students with a dedicated adviser to give summer onramp career exploration classes free of charge at the community colleges. These classes help students focus on their goals, explore career options, plan future steps and develop skills to be successful in college or job training. We now have almost 1,000 students registered. The excitement around this program has led to over $2 million in private scholarships aimed at these students that continue into the fall semester.

4. Due to the emergency need to move to an online environment to complete the spring 2020 semester, we have summer plans to launch high quality, module based professional development for faculty. In addition, we are using this opportunity to use summer to bring together our discipline faculty to discuss lessons learned by discipline due to COVID-19. These activities will help further our high quality instruction through sharing of instructional best practices. These actions will also better prepare us in the event we have to return to this environment due to another wave of COVID-19.